

J. Raptor Res. 26(4):267

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GREAT HORNED OWL NESTING IN MONK PARAKEET COLONY IN SUBURBAN CONNECTICUT

The Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) is one of the most widespread and successful of North American birds of prey. Throughout its range, it nests in an extremely wide variety of habitats, ranging from desert cacti in the Southwest to forests of the Northeast. Excepting only the Eastern Screech Owl (*Otus asio*), the Great Horned Owl may also be the raptor most tolerant and adaptable to human modified habitats; it has been recorded nesting in a variety of urban and suburban open space habitats, where it usually appropriates nests of crows or squirrels or, less frequently, large cavities in trees (K.H. Voous 1988, *Owls of the Northern Hemisphere*, The MIT Press, Cambridge, MA).

We report on the nesting of a Great Horned Owl in a Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*) colony in a residential suburb of Bridgeport, Connecticut. This Monk Parakeet colony has existed since the mid-1970s and was, until recently, unique to this site in the state. The colony typically included 90 or more birds and 35–40 active nests at any one time, all constructed in a single ornamental fir (*Abies* sp.) about 19 m tall, in a suburban yard.

The Great Horned Owls used the top of the largest Monk Parakeet nest located along a branch 15.2–15.4 m high. The nest was about 1.8 m in length, 0.6–0.9 m in width and 0.9 m deep. It housed seven pairs of nesting Monk Parakeets, which entered from the bottom or sides. A single Great Horned Owl nestling was first observed in mid-April. It fledged on or about 17 May. Backdating (Anderson and Hickey 1970, *Wilson Bull.* 82:14–28), suggests that the egg deposition was in mid-February and hatching occurred in late March. One adult owl typically roosted in the tree, usually close against the bole and overlooking the nest. The second adult sometimes roosted in a small line of White Pines (*Pinus alba*) about 90 m away. After fledging, both young and adult continued to roost in the nest site tree, always close to the trunk and well within the canopy at heights of 15.2–18.3 m.

Pellets and prey fragments collected from beneath the nest site tree yielded the remains of 22 prey individuals belonging to four species. Of these, 17 (77.3%) were the Norway Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*), 1 (4.5%) an Eastern Cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) and 2 (9.1%) each were of Eastern Chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*) and Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*). Observations indicated that the Great Horned Owls were taking Norway rats from a small estuary located about 0.5 kilometers from the nest site. The other prey species suggest that the adult owls also sometimes foraged along the lawns.

Although several piles of Monk Parakeet feathers were found beneath the nest site none were found in pellets. However, we did observe the nestling scurrying along a branch toward a parakeet that had landed about 1.5 m away while the adult female watched. Neither it nor the nearby adult were able to capture the parakeet, which flew off as the juvenile owl approached.—**Arnold Devine, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Hartford, CT 06510; Dwight G. Smith, Biology Department, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT 06515.**

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RENESTING OF MEXICAN SPOTTED OWL IN SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO

Renesting in the wild by Mexican Spotted Owls (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) has not been documented previously. E.D. Forsman et al. (1984, *Wildl. Monogr.* 87:33) stated that a captive Spotted Owl laid two sets of eggs in two different years, but they made no mention of this occurring in the wild.

We report renesting of a pair of Mexican Spotted Owls in the Lincoln National Forest in southern New Mexico. This pair was included in a study of four mated pairs and one female of a mated pair that were fitted with back-pack radiotransmitters in October 1990. Monitored pairs began roosting together in February 1991 and began nesting in March.

We visited the nest sites at least twice per week to check for young after females were thought to be with eggs. On 3 and 4 May, a single, approximately 10 cm tall owlet was dead at the base of the nest tree of one of the pairs. The